

REMARKS

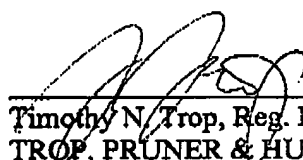
With respect to the objection that the variable N must be further limited, it is unclear why the variable N must be further limited. One skilled in the art would appreciate how best to select whatever variable N should be selected. There is no need to put any limitations, even if they are believed by the Examiner to be practical limitations, on the claims as one skilled in the art should be able to understand the claims.

With respect to the assertion that the phrase "adapted to" is not entitled to weight, it is noted that the argument that the claim really only describes the intended result of a step is inappropriate since there is no step described in the claim. Instead, the "adapted to" language does not merely cover the intended effect of a step, but, rather, is limited to that structure which is necessary to achieve that result since this is an apparatus claim. This is expressly sanctioned by new M.P.E.P. § 2173.075(g) (last paragraph) which expressly discusses "adapted to" language and indicates that the language should be interpreted to cover, at least in an apparatus setting, the corresponding structure needed to implement the function.

Therefore, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 9, 2006



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